

The Times.

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1899.

A NORTHERN VIEW.

The discussion of the question of negro suffrage is still attracting attention at the North, and many of the Northern newspapers are taking a hand in the debate. We find, for example, the following in the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Press:

The Southern movement to disfranchise the negro has reached Georgia, where the Hardwick bill in the Legislature aims to disqualify negroes from voting, though its ostensible purpose is, of course, otherwise. Leading representatives of the negro race are ready to protest against the bill, among them being the always conservative Booker T. Washington, who thought the bill, if enacted, would tend to widen the breach between the two races. The Richmond (Va.) Times declared Mr. Washington was to be in error, "If the negro were wholly disfranchised, it said, 'all source of friction between the two races would be removed, the States would admit individual negroes to the suffrage as they qualified themselves, and the negro question would never be heard of again."

The Times is hardly as sincere as it might be or ought to be. Its plan of putting an end to the negro question is somewhat akin to the plan of ending the Indian question by ending the Indian. The whole object of the new Southern franchise laws is not to improve the character of the voting citizen, but to keep the balance of power in the hands of the whites, good, bad, and indifferent. The only good thing we see about it is that, unless the laws are, they may still result in greater effort on the part of the blacks to elevate their own condition.

The Times is entirely sincere in dealing with this question. The object of the new Southern franchise laws is undoubtedly to keep the balance of power in the hands of the whites. This is a white man's country and the white man who discovered it, who set it free, and who developed it, will always rule it. That is one of those well-established facts that it is idle to discuss. It must be accepted as a fact, and treated as such. The Times wants to see the white man rule, as he will rule, with as little friction as possible, and in advocating such a course it is doing the friendliest possible thing for the black man. It is more to the interest of the negro than to the interest of the white man that there should be no classes between the races, because whenever there are such classes the black man always gets the worst of it. All the political trouble that has come to the South since the war has come from universal negro suffrage. That is responsible for most of the election riots that have occurred, and is responsible directly or indirectly, for nine-tenths of the political corruption in the Southern States. Therefore, in the interest of both races, in the interest of peace and order, in the interest of public morals, pure politics and good government, in the interest of the material and moral welfare of every Southern State, The Times is in favor of excluding the great mass of negro voters from the polls. But we do not mean by this to say that we would forever denounce the negro as a right to vote. We are willing to hold out inducements to him to qualify himself, and we are willing, whenever he can furnish satisfactory proof that he is capable of exercising the right of franchise discreetly and intelligently and in the interest of good government, to put the last nail into his coffin.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.
The proposal to create the office of insurance commissioner is a proposal to put a useless and perhaps a meddlesome officer upon the way rolls of the State. We can see no good thing to be accomplished by the creation of such an office and Virginia is in no condition to be adding on a useless expense.

We believe that the Legislature can do something to help the insured, but not through the creation of an insurance commissioner. The way to help the insured is to get insurance rates reduced to the minimum, and the way to secure the lowest rates is to reduce the hazard to the minimum. We had something to say on this subject several days ago, and we repeat that the risk which an insurance company takes is twofold, the one a physical risk, the other a moral risk. When a company undertakes to insure a piece of property against loss by fire it takes the risk of accident and it takes chances on the character of the man who owns the property. Of course

no company would insure a man if it thought that he was mean enough to apply the torch to his own property and destroy it in order to collect the insurance, but this sort of thing has been done, and it is a risk which cannot possibly be estimated. The property owner will be able to reduce his insurance rate to the minimum if he will take the precautions which the insurance companies suggest.

The Legislature may reduce the moral risk to the minimum by taking every possible precaution which the law may afford against arson.

In our previous article on this subject we quoted a prominent insurance man as having said that if the Legislature of Mississippi would adopt such an insurance law as he would outline, he would guarantee to reduce the rate of fire insurance in that State at least twenty-five per cent. Now let the Legislature of Virginia act upon this hint, appoint a special committee, if need be, to confer with leading insurance agents in Virginia, and ascertain if it can pass any measure which will result in a reduction of the fire insurance rate. If so let the Legislature act upon the suggestion of the insurance men and then we may be sure of practical results.

THAT ALLIANCE.

A cable from London represents that it can be stated upon the highest authority that no one was more surprised and annoyed at Mr. Chamberlain's references to the "new triple alliance." In his recent Leicester speech, thus Lord Salisbury, the speech, it says, was delivered without the least consultation with the Premier, and has caused him more perturbation than any recent political circumstance. While it is impossible, it continues, for the Foreign Office to officially disown Mr. Chamberlain's utterances, every effort is evinced to minimize them, and without absolutely denying the public statements of a member of the Cabinet to give the impression that his references to alliances were not based on facts. Another cable from London says that the agent of the Associated Press is in a position to say that Joseph A. Choate, Esq., the United States Ambassador to England, was not only unaware of the tenor of the speech delivered by Mr. Chamberlain, at the moment when he, himself, was speaking at the American Thanksgiving banquet in London, but was ignorant of the fact that the Secretary for the Colonies was making any speech at all on the same day.

Mr. Choate repudiates emphatically any intention to confirm the Colonial Secretary's remarks, maintaining that he only reiterated on behalf of the United States expressions of friendship often made before, and he does not believe that there is any necessity for withdrawing anything he said, and while refusing to express an opinion on Mr. Chamberlain's speech, Mr. Choate draws attention to his own speech, which included a statement that he believed the watchword of the United States was still "no entangling alliances." Now, Governor Tyler, look to your laurels.

A special from Pittsburgh says that during the ten years which have elapsed since Andrew Carnegie made his first offer of \$3,000 for a public library in Braddock, Pa., he has given away more than \$3,000,000 for the purpose of building and maintaining libraries in this and other countries. There are in all fifty of these gifts, only four of which are in Southern towns. Atlanta has received \$100,000, Newport, Ky., \$30,000, Fort Worth, Tex., \$500, and the city of Louisville has been offered \$2,500, but the gift has not been accepted. A large number of these gifts went to towns in Scotland.

SOUTHERN NOTES.

Hon. James H. Robertson, mayor of Canton, Ohio, went to Chattanooga this week to witness an exhibition by Detective Perry Phillips, in trailing criminals with bloodhounds. Mr. Robertson went on instruction of the city council of Canton, authorized to purchase two dogs from Mr. Phillips for the use of the Canton police department. The chase occurred on the north side of the Tennessee river and was a perfect success. Mayor Robertson selected two young but full grown and well trained dogs for which he paid \$300.

It seems to us a great deal of fuss is being made in this connection over a very trifling matter. Mr. Chamberlain never intended to say that there was any formal alliance between the United States and Great Britain, and Mr. Choate is perfectly right in saying that this country will never enter into formal alliances with any other nation. What Mr. Chamberlain had in his mind, as any man of common sense will readily perceive, was the fact that the people of both countries recognize that England and the United States are the two nations of the earth whose people are inspired with a love of liberty and a love of justice that makes them work harmoniously together for the spread of both over the face of the earth, and that kindred spirit links the two people together by an indissoluble bond that will in no way weaken those who are oppressed people on the earth and while injustice is imposed upon them.

John Shanghai Hall, who was a brave confederate soldier, was so frozen near Laurens, South Carolina, that he died. He had gone to town and was returning home when overcome by fatigue, he lay down on the roadside. The negro went to twenty-four degrees that night, and the man was frozen into insensibility. When found next morning efforts to revive him were partially made all day, but without success. He leaves a wife and family.

Indignation has been aroused at Danbridge, Tenn., by the action of Governor McMillin in granting a reprieve to Charles Givens, wife murderer, who was sentenced to hang December 14th. Residents of the section in which the crime was committed are leading the movement, and have threatened to mob Givens, the jail being guarded. Givens is dying from consumption and may not live three weeks. This condition moved the governor to

read as follows:

"The judges of election shall not enter the booth or permit any other person except the voter to enter the booth while the voter is preparing his ballot, or interfere in any way whatever with the right of the voter to secretly prepare his ballot and vote in the exercise of his right to which he is entitled under the constitution; provided that any voter who is blind or infirm, or so tenderly ill as to render him physically incapable of writing, may request either of the judges to enter the booth and assist him in preparing his ballot, to which extent, and no other, the judge so requested shall enter the booth with the voter and assist him to prepare his ballot in accordance with his instructions."

GUNTON ON CURRENCY.

In Gunton's Magazine for December is a sensible paper on "Congress and Monetary Relief." After reviewing the financial situation and the recent squeeze in New York the writer comes to speak of our bank-secured national bank notes. He says that they are sometimes spoken of as the best currency the world has ever known, but are quite the opposite. It has been time and again claimed for them that they are perfectly secure, but Gunton says that their safety is their only merit, and that the country would be much better off without them. "The banks," he continues, "will only issue these notes beyond what is mandatory under the national bank act when it is profitable to do so, and it is only profitable to issue when the premium on bonds (which have to be purchased and deposited with the government to secure the Rochester, N. Y. Press Club, was recently killed at Jacksonville, Fla., by an elephant to which he had given a piece of tobacco. It was two days after the tobacco had been given that the big beast broke his chain, and throwing his trunk around Claggett, raised him in the air and threw him to the ground with such force that his life was crushed out.

The Philadelphia Record prints the following cablegram from its Paris correspondent:

The Novo Tevrenia, a great Russian newspaper, regards President McKinley's message as a reply to British Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's remarks about an alliance of the United States, England and Germany. The paper thinks little of England's protestations of friendship for America, which it regards as a sort of farce.

As the result of a scandal in the family of Peter Sells, the well-known showman, a petition for divorce and a suit for damages were filed in the Common Pleas Court of Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday

A large number of people went to the

send them home to get the cash for them just as if they were checks."

These are perfectly plain propositions. Our currency system is wretched and it is ridiculous to say that it is all right because the bank notes issued under it are safe. Government bonds are safe, but they do not and cannot perform the functions of currency. We need a system that will respond to the demands of the hour. It is the natural function of banks to supply currency and if the government would only stop interfering with them and let them perform their functions without hindrance, they would as surely supply the demand for cotton cloths,

CURRENT TOPICS.

At a recent meeting of the Woman's Press Club, of Tennessee, Mrs. Flournoy Rivers in response to the address of well-known used these eloquent words:

"A cursory glance over this assemblage of women would suggest only the usual society gathering. However, you wish to feel what an expression of progress and purpose it represents think of Nashville one hundred or one hundred and twenty years ago—a wilderness of cane and forest—and picture the honest-to-goodness emigrant mother of that day, who, in calico sunbonnet stiffened with pine splints, astride a pack-horse, one child in front of her and two, maybe, behind, followed her into this wild of Tennessee far from physician, friend or neighbor; her worldly goods a few bags of salt and seed corn, a pot, an axe—a stout and loving heart; her form was bent and her life shortened by terrible toll, such as we never think of—for the axe, the washboard, the soap kettle yielded to the lighter manual labor of the pen. We have no need to bend the back and flush the face over the ash-cale and her steak as she did, yet we have the pleasure of the comfort reported of the cabin with its bowing companion and sweet flattery is not conceded with lack of weariness. We do not tell to fashion the buckskin leggings, the hunting shirt and coon-skin cap to keep our loved ones snug and warm, but as a woman writer has said, we do knit comforting curtains of fancy's yarn to have nightly between them and a chilly world."

Now, Governor Tyler, look to your laurels.

Agree With Thine Adversary.

Hipworth—I'd like to make a bargain with you.

Shoe (the next flat)—What?

Hipworth—if you won't give your boy a drum on Christmas, I won't give mine a horn—Philadelphia North American.

place where Dick Coleman was burned at the stake near Mayville, Ky., and carried away fragments of bone as souvenirs of the occasion.

It Might be Worse.

"Ooh! Has something to be thankful for?"

"What's that?"

"He ought to be glad he hasn't got Paul to handle—"Detroit Free Press.

Small Pill.

Small Doe.

Small Doe.